

the Corvidæ and the 'conirostral' series of families generally are better placed at the upper than at the lower end of the Oscinine series.

It is, indeed, doubtful whether any very final conclusions can be based on a consideration confined almost wholly to forms represented in North America, or without a pretty intimate knowledge of exotic types. Although such intimately related and practically inosculating groups as the Tanagridæ and Mniotiltidæ are separated in the new arrangement by the interpolation of such diverse forms as the Cinclidæ, Troglodytidæ, etc., we do not see that any new light is thrown upon their complex relationships. Such inferences as may be drawn from the color of the eggs, the similarity of the plumage, or otherwise, between young birds and their parents, the presence or absence of a rudimentary tenth primary, have of course more or less significance within narrow limits, but obviously fail as a test of affinity in any general sense. While the new classification is based mainly upon osteological characters, much stress is properly laid upon the size of the brain; and perhaps too much, here and there, on rather trivial characters.

The two plates accompanying the paper contain 26 figures, illustrating the cranial characters of 23 species.

Other recent papers on avian anatomy by Dr. Shufeldt are 'Notes on the Anatomy of *Speotyto cunicularia hypogæa*,'\* and a paper entitled 'Progress in Avian Anatomy for the years 1888-1889,'† the latter read at the last meeting of the American Ornithologists' Union (see Auk, VII, p. 68).—J. A. A.

**Maynard's 'Eggs of North American Birds.'**‡—Mr. Maynard's work was issued in nine parts, mostly during the year 1889. As about 1000 species and subspecies are treated in less than 160 pages of rather open text, the descriptions are necessarily brief and general. The ten plates contain about eighty figures, intended to represent "type eggs, not of groups of birds, but of types of the forms and patterns of coloration of North American eggs." The text is generally good so far as it goes, being limited to a statement of the number of eggs, their color (in general terms) and size, the breeding range and season of breeding, the whole usually condensed into about four to six lines of long primer type, on a rather narrow page. The arrangement, numeration, and nomenclature are, with slight exceptions, the same as in the A. O. U. Check-List; a few species being included which are not recognized by the A. O. U. Committee in making up the Supplements to the Check-List.

The work is fairly free from typographical errors, though not a few grievous ones occur, which the author laments, and partly corrects, in

\* Journ. of Morphology. Vol. III, 1889, pp. 115-125, pl. vii. •

† Journ. Comp. Med. and Vetern. Arch., Jan. 1890.

‡ Eggs | of | North American Birds | by | Chas. J. Maynard. | Illustrated | with ten hand-colored Plates. | — | Boston: | De Wolfe, Fiske & Co. | 1890.— 8vo., pp. iv + 159.

his Appendix. Whether the grouping of the Orioles and Blackbirds under the family "Sturnidae," or the uniform substitution of *Chordeiles* for *Chordeiles* are to be regarded as typographical accidents, or an expression of the author's preferences, is not evident.—J. A. A.

Bryant's 'Catalogue of the Birds of Lower California.'\*—This paper is based primarily on the author's experience during two visits of several months each in 1888 and 1889 to Lower California, where he spent his time on the western coast near Magdalena Bay, and in travelling on horseback through the interior. His own observations are supplemented by notes furnished by Messrs. L. Belding and A. W. Anthony, and he has also availed himself of the literature bearing on the subject in order "to embrace the known avifauna of the entire peninsula and adjacent islands." Mr. Bryant begins his paper with an introduction of a dozen pages chiefly a narrative of his own and others' explorations, but including, too, a bibliographical list of twenty-four previous publications relating to the region. He then gives an annotated list of 320 species and subspecies of which 215 are land birds. The annotations usually are brief, and relate chiefly to the distribution and times of occurrence of each species. Occasionally there are extended biographical notices of much interest, as in the cases of *Phalacrocorax dilophus albociliatus*, *Pelecanus californicus*, and *Fregata aquila*. The paper is accompanied by a sketch map of Lower California, showing the places visited by Mr. Bryant. This map, however, does not appear with the author's extras. Mr. Bryant deserves thanks for having brought together so much valuable information about the ornithology of a region of which we have long had but a shadowy knowledge.—C. F. B.

Anthony on New Birds from Lower California. †—The birds here described were collected by Mr. Anthony and Mr. C. H. Townsend, in April and May, 1889, in the San Pedro Mountains in Lower California, situated about one hundred and fifty miles south of the United States, and about midway between the Pacific Ocean and the Gulf of California. The mountains form a series of small ranges having an altitude of 8000 to about 12,000 feet. The birds described as new are the following: (1) *Oreortyx picta confinis*, (2) *Aphelocoma californica obscura*, (3) *Junco townsendi*, (4) *Sitta pygmaea leucoucha*, (5) *Sialia mexicana anabelæ*. The first four, so far as known, are restricted to the region in question; the habitat of the last (*Sialia m. anabelæ*) includes also Mt. Lassen, in Northern California, Genoa, Utah, and Puget Sound. While the first four have

\* A Catalogue of the Birds of Lower California, Mexico. By Walter E. Bryant. Proc. Cal. Acad. Sci., Ser. 2, Vol. II, pp. 237-320. With map.

† New Birds from Lower California, Mexico. By Alfred W. Anthony, Proc. California Acad., 2d. Ser., Vol. II, 1889, pp. 73-82.